

Service not honored

I just finished "Celebrating Freedom, Honoring Service" [March 2005], regarding the participation of the Air Force in the 2005 inauguration. Although I thought the article was well written, I can't overlook the omission of one of the most vital roles in the inauguration — explosive ordnance disposal.

The vast majority of people, civilian and military, have no idea what the EOD community is, let alone what we do. We do everything from respond to emergencies involving unsafe munitions on the flightline to disarming improvised explosive devices. And one of our many tasks includes VIP support mis-

sions. Everywhere such dignitaries as the president, vice president and secretary of state go, an EOD team has previously been. We're tasked with ensuring areas are swept free of any possible



explosive devices left by a would-be assassin. It's a thankless task characterized by long hours and a simple axiom: "Find or Function." We are living, breathing "bomb robots," expendable if need be, but dedicated to our task nonetheless.

At this year's inauguration, no less than 250 EOD technicians and 50 K-9 teams from all four services were on hand to make sure areas were safe for our distinguished leaders and for the general public. I think it was shameful that such an important role was not featured, while other less vital ones received the spotlight.

Senior Airman Dan Solon
Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Making a list

I was just reading "Reservist returns POW/MIA bracelet" [Airman's World, February 2005]. I have been attending to my second bracelet for about 20 years now. Airman published a list of remaining POW/MIA's some 30 years ago, and I would ask that a list be published again.

I'm an Air Force retiree, spent time in theater and have great respect for these fallen heroes and those of wars and conflicts that have come after Vietnam. Thank you and keep up the great work!

Ray F. Thomas
Via e-mail

Bracelet buddy

As I read "Reservist returns POW/MIA bracelet" [Airman's World, February 2005], I couldn't believe the coincidence that I, too, have a red bracelet of Chief Master Sgt. Harold E. Mullins. I purchased it at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in 1986 while attending dental laboratory technical school. I selected him because he was enlisted, came from Colorado (where my father retired from the Air Force), and went missing in 1966 — the year I was born. It never occurred to me that there were multiple bracelets of the same name, but then we never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you for the article and educating me on how to return it.

Tech. Sgt. Deborah A. Frakes
Dyess Air Force Base, Texas

Corrections

In "New mobility concept tested at Whiteman" [March 2005], the unit should be identified as the 509th Bomb Wing. Additionally, the new mobility concept was developed by Air Mobility Command personnel in the command's Tanker Airlift Control Center to support U.S. Central Command Air Forces.

In "Reflections from the Past" [October 2004], the individual featured at left in the photo was not a member of the unit. He was escorting a veteran from the 398th Bombardment Group.

Kudos

The February 2005 issue of Airman is a keeper. Each article was interesting and informative. You did a great job in putting that issue together.

John Duemmel
Via mail

Meet the Staff

Maj. Kimberly G. Tebrugge is a 12-year veteran from Olympia, Wash., whose previous assignments included Dyess Air Force Base, Texas; Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.; Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.; and Air Force News Agency, San Antonio. She spent nine years on active duty and then transitioned to the Reserve. In her civilian capacity, she works for a public relations firm and is finishing a master's in business from the University of Washington. As an individual mobilization augmentee at Airman, she writes and edits articles highlighting Air Force people and missions. If you have a story idea, call Airman at (210) 925-7757, or send an e-mail to airman@afnews.af.mil.

by Master Sgt. Scott Wagers



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■ **Airman:** www.af.mil/news/airman — Feature and information magazine. Unit subscriptions: afnspub@afnews.af.mil.



Dueling honors

I have just received your February magazine and am really disappointed in the "Duel Over the Gulf." The story itself was lacking and there are no pictures of the Pacific Air Forces team. Here they are the winning team and they get one line at the end of how they beat the competition with their "souped-up" F-15C. They won because of teamwork not hardware. Everyone from the weapons directors to the assistant crew chief played a vital role in getting those "souped-up" F15s in the air and on target. Any mistake means lost points. Each

team was authorized two, three-man weapons crews to compete in the static and flightline load. The PACAF weapons team really shined (because of hard work and practice) and had beaten the other major command teams by over 1,000 points. There were a lot of pictures taken of the competition, and it was a real shame you couldn't include the winning team in the six-page layout.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Davis
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

